

Trackside

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Renata B. Hesse Antitrust Division U.S. Department of Justice 601 D Street NW, Suite 1200 Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Ms. Hesse:

sincerely,

Settling the Microsoft anti-trust case is of great importance to our economy and the principles of justice. The Clinton Administration decided to sue Microsoft for anti-trust violations. I always assumed that a necessary element for such a suit is evidence of consumer harm. So far, there has been no evidence that Microsoft's business practices have caused consumer harm, rather, the case has become an example of excessive government interference in the market place. I suspect that this is one of the reasons the Department of Justice settled with Microsoft.

I was very disappointed when Kansas Attorney General Carla Stovall refused to sign on with the proposed settlement. Stovall's unwillingness to agree to this settlement is purely political, a tax-payer funded publicity play to keep her name in the press while she runs for governor. She and the others who are continuing to pursue this case are apparently more interested in making headlines at the expense of the taxpayer then doing what is right for their constituents and for the vitality of the economy. I have written Attorney General Stovall to let her know that I was adamantly opposed to her wasting taxpayer dollars while gaining for Kansas an anti-business reputation.

It would appear that the business climate is getting better and the economy shows signs of shaking off the recession. I urge the Department of Justice to accept the settlement and so recommend to Judge C. Kollar-Kotelly.